



POLICY OVERVIEW

- **A Solemn Duty to Protect the Integrity of Our Elections:** Foreign adversaries are attacking our elections. As FBI Director Christopher Wray has testified, foreign interference in our democracy is “a 365-days-a-year threat.” We have a solemn duty to fight back and protect the integrity of our elections.
- **Common-Sense, Bipartisan Solutions to Counter Foreign Interference:** The SHIELD Act puts forward common-sense, bipartisan reforms to improve our defenses against foreign influence and interference. The bill strengthens reporting requirements, closes loopholes and deters illegal foreign activity in our elections.
- **We Must Act to Protect Our National Security:** With the 2020 elections fast approaching, we must take swift action to safeguard our democracy. As public officials, we swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. We must rise to the occasion and fulfill that oath.



PREPARED BY



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KEY POLICY PROVISIONS

- **Creates a duty to report illicit offers of campaign assistance from foreign governments and their agents.** The SHIELD Act requires political campaigns, parties and political committees like PACs and Super PACs to report attempts by foreign governments, foreign political parties and their agents to influence our elections to authorities at the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This ensures violations can incur criminal or civil liability. The SHIELD Act also requires campaigns to establish compliance mechanisms.
- **Helps prevent foreign interference in future elections by improving transparency of online political advertisements.** The SHIELD Act prevents foreign governments from taking advantage of outdated laws that allow them to buy and place political ads on platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Google. The bill cracks down on hidden, foreign disinformation campaigns in our elections by ensuring that political ads sold online are covered by the same rules as ads sold on TV, radio and satellite.
- **Closes loopholes that allow foreign nationals and foreign governments to spend in U.S. elections.** Strengthens the foreign money ban by prohibiting foreign nationals from participating in decision-making about contributions or expenditures by corporations, PACs, Super PACs and other entities and closes other avenues of foreign spending to influence elections, including digital advertising. Closes other gaps in the law that allow foreign governments to influence American elections.
- **Restricts exchange of campaign information between candidates and foreign governments and their agents.** President Trump's campaign officials shared campaign polling data with a person associated with Russian intelligence, expecting that the data would be shared with an oligarch linked to the Russian government. The SHIELD Act closes this gap in the law by deeming the offering of non-public campaign material to foreign governments and those linked with foreign governments and their agents as an illegal solicitation of support.
- **Prohibits deceptive practices about voting procedures.** Independent experts have identified voter suppression tactics the Russians used on social media, including malicious misdirection designed to create confusion about voting rules. The SHIELD Act incorporates the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act to prohibit anyone from providing false information about voting rules and qualifications for voting. It also provides mechanisms for disseminating correct information and establishes strong penalties for voter intimidation.